

NOTES ON THE VARIATION AND HABITS OF *SCHIZOGLOSSA*
NOVOSEELANDICA, PFR.

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WITHIN the last few months I have had the opportunity of examining a number of examples of *Schizoglossa Novoseelandica*, and find that the shell and dentition vary somewhat from that described and figured by Mr. C. Hedley, Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales (2), vol. vii. pp. 387-391, pls. ix.-x. The shell varies in the different forms assumed by the callous thickening on the columella; the most common is a thickish callous commencing at the anterior end of the columella, and spreading down to the insertion of the outer lip; in some individuals this is much thickened and forms a stout rib.

The two small tubercles described by Mr. Hedley are not a constant feature; in some examples they are entirely absent; others have one, two, or several small denticles immediately in front of the spreading callous. The young forms as well as the adult are always more or less callous.

In addition to the scar of the columella muscle, there is another on the posterior end of the inner lip; this is long and narrow and immediately under the incurved margin.

The dental formula given is 61 rows of 24-0-24. In those examined by me the number of teeth per row was found to vary from twenty-five to twenty-eight, with here and there a small rudimentary tooth in the centre of the cleft.

Taking the formula 26-0-26, which seems the more usual number, the twenty-fifth tooth is rather smaller than the twenty-fourth, and the twenty-sixth is minute and occasionally absent; when this latter tooth is present in no case have I found the number less than twenty-six. Mr. Hedley had, unfortunately, only one or two examples to study; with a larger number of specimens he could scarcely have failed to note the small outermost tooth and variable number.

The anatomy of the animal seems to sufficiently indicate its carnivorous nature; nevertheless, I was surprised to find that it eats its own species; in the stomach of a specimen dissected was a fairly large shell, the softer structure being almost completely digested; judging from this shell the animal must have been well grown, perhaps from a third to one-half smaller than its cannibal relative.

Schizoglossa has a liking for *Otococoncha dimidiata*, Pfr., and will eat this mollusc in preference to the common earth-worm. A number of examples were collected in August, from near Stratford; they were found climbing the native *Fuchsia*; some were six to seven feet from the ground, but always protected with moss. It has also been collected at Cape Egmont, Wanganui, and Hunterville, and is probably sparsely scattered throughout the greater part of the North Island, New Zealand.